

**4VAC15-90-91****Game: Deer: General firearms season either-sex deer hunting days.****Summary:**

The proposal is to change the general firearms either-sex deer hunting days for the counties/areas shown in the table below:

<b>City/County/WMA</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Charles City	Increase	31	Full season
Chesterfield	Increase	8	15
Fluvanna	Increase	15	31
Goochland	Increase	31	Full season
King and Queen	Increase	8	15
King William	Increase	8	15
New Kent	Increase	31	Full season
Page (private lands)	Increase	7	Full season
Powhatan (except Powhatan WMA)	Increase	31	Full season
Rockingham (private lands west of Routes 613 and 731)	Increase	1	2
Spotsylvania	Increase	31	Full season
<b><u>Public Land</u></b>			
C.F. Phelps	Decrease	2	1
G.R. Thompson WMA	Increase	2	15
Hardware River WMA	Stay the same	15	15
Oakley Forest	Decrease	31	15
Rapidan WMA	Decrease	31	15
White Oak Mountain WMA	Increase	2	4

**Proposed language of amendment:****4VAC15-90-91. General firearms season either-sex deer hunting days.**

A. During the general firearms deer season, deer of either sex may be taken within:

Accomack County: full season.

Albemarle County: full season.

Alleghany County: the second Saturday and the last day.

-National forest lands: the last day.

Amelia County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

-Amelia WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Amherst County (east of Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the Town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River): the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

Amherst County (west of Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the Town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River): full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

Appomattox County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

-Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest: the second and third Saturdays.

-Featherfin WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

Arlington County: full season.

Augusta County: full season.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the last day.

Bath County: the second Saturday and the last day.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the last day.

Bedford County: full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

Bland County: the second Saturday and the last day.

-National forest lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

Botetourt County: full season.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the last day.

Brunswick County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Buchanan County: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

Buckingham County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

-Horsepen Lake WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

-Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest: the second and third Saturdays.

-Featherfin WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

Campbell County (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad): the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

Campbell County (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad): full season.

Caroline County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

-Mattaponi WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Carroll County: full season.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

Charles City County: ~~the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days~~ full season.

-Chickahominy WMA: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

Charlotte County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Chesapeake (City of): the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Chesterfield County: the second and third Saturdays and the last ~~six~~ 13 days.

Clarke County: full season.

Craig County: full season.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

Culpeper County: full season.

-Chester F. Phelps WMA: the second Saturday ~~and the last day~~.

Cumberland County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

-Cumberland State Forest: the second and third Saturdays.

Dickenson County: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

Dinwiddie County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Essex County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Fairfax County: full season.

Fauquier County: full season.

-G. Richard Thompson WMA: ~~the second Saturday and the last day~~ the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

-Chester F. Phelps WMA: the second Saturday ~~and the last day~~.

Floyd County: full season.

Fluvanna County: second and third Saturdays and the last ~~13~~ 29 days.

-Hardware River WMA: second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Franklin County: full season.

-Philpott Reservoir: the second Saturday and the last six days.

-Turkeycock Mountain WMA: the second Saturday and the last six days.

Frederick County: full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

Giles County: full season.

-National forest lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

Gloucester County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Goochland County: ~~the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days~~ full season.

Grayson County: full season.

-National forest lands and Grayson Highlands State Park: the last day.

Greene County: full season.

Greensville County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Halifax County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Hanover County: full season.

Henrico County: full season.

Henry County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

-Fairystone Farms WMA, Fairystone State Park, and Philpott Reservoir: the second Saturday and the last six days.

-Turkeycock Mountain WMA: the second Saturday and the last six days.

Highland County: the second Saturday and the last day.

-National forest lands: the last day.

-Department-owned lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

Isle of Wight County: full season.

-Ragged Island WMA: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

James City County: full season.

King and Queen County: the second and third Saturdays and the last ~~six~~ 13 days.

King George County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

King William County: the second and third Saturdays and the last ~~six~~ 13 days.

Lancaster County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Lee County: the second Saturday and the last two days.

-National forest lands: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

Loudoun County: full season.

Louisa County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

Lunenburg County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Madison County: full season.

-Rapidan WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last ~~29~~13 days.

Mathews County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Mecklenburg County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

-Dick Cross WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Middlesex County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Montgomery County: full season.

-National forest lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

Nelson County (east of Route 151): the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

-James River WMA: the second Saturday and the last six days.

Nelson County (west of Route 151): full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

New Kent County: ~~the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days~~full season.

Northampton County: full season.

Northumberland County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Nottoway County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Orange County: full season.

Page County: ~~the second Saturday and the last six days~~full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

Patrick County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

-Fairystone Farms WMA, Fairystone State Park, and Philpott Reservoir: the second Saturday and the last six days.

Pittsylvania County (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad): the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

-White Oak Mountain WMA: the second Saturday and the last three days.

Pittsylvania County (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad): full season.

Powhatan County: ~~the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days~~full season.

-Powhatan WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Prince Edward County: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

-Briery Creek WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

-Featherfin WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days.

-Prince Edward State Forest: the second and third Saturdays.

Prince George County: full season.

Prince William County: full season.

Pulaski County: full season.

-National forest lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

Rappahannock County: full season.

Richmond County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Roanoke County: full season.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the last day.

Rockbridge County: the second Saturday and the last two days.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the last day.

Rockingham County: full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

-Private lands west of Routes 613 and 731: the Second Saturday and the last day.

Russell County: the second Saturday and the last two days.

-Department-owned lands and the Channels State Forest: the last day.

Scott County: the second Saturday and the last six days.

-National forest lands: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

Shenandoah County: full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

Smyth County: full season.

-National forest lands, department-owned lands, and Hungry Mother State Park: the last day.

Southampton County: full season.

Spotsylvania County: ~~the second and third Saturdays and the last 29 days~~ full season.

-Oakley Forest WMA: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Stafford County: full season.

Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp Line): the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Suffolk (west of the Dismal Swamp Line): full season.

Surry County: full season.

-Carlisle and Stewart Tracts of the Hog Island WMA: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

Sussex County: full season.

-Big Woods WMA (including the Parkers Branch Tract) and Big Woods State Forest: the second and third Saturdays and the last six days.

Tazewell County: the second Saturday and the last two days.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the last day.

Virginia Beach (City of): the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Warren County: full season.

-National forest lands: the last day.

Washington County: the second Saturday and the last six days.

-National forest lands, department-owned lands, and the Channels State Forest: the last day.

Westmoreland County: the second and third Saturdays and the last 13 days.

Wise County: antlered bucks only—no either-sex days. Only deer with antlers above the hairline may be taken.

Wythe County: full season.

-National forest and department-owned lands: the second Saturday and the last day.

York County: full season.

B. Except as provided in the subsection A of this section, deer of either sex may be taken full season during the general firearms deer season within the incorporated limits of any city or town, state park, national wildlife refuge, or military installation that allows deer hunting or within any common interest community participating in the special urban archery season according to provisions of [4VAC15-90-70](#).

**Rationale:**

Charles City, Goochland, King and Queen, King William, New Kent, Page, Powhatan, and Spotsylvania counties. The private land deer population index in these counties is currently above the desired deer population management objective bracket in the Department's deer management plan. Additional either-sex deer hunting days should assist in bringing the deer population back down to the desired level(s).

Chesterfield. The proposed increase in firearms either-sex deer hunting days in Chesterfield County is a proactive change. The private land deer population index in Chesterfield County is currently at the top end, but within the desired deer population objective bracket found in the Department's deer management plan and has increased significantly over the past five years. Additional either-sex deer hunting days should assist in bringing the deer population back down slightly.

Fluvanna. The proposed increase in firearms either-sex deer hunting days in Fluvanna County is a proactive change. The private land deer population index in Fluvanna County is currently at the top end of its desired deer population objective bracket found in the Department's deer management plan; however, local staff feels that additional either-sex deer hunting opportunities can and should be provided at this time.

Rockingham (private lands west of Routes 613 and 731). In fall 2008, the Department created a special deer management unit in western Rockingham in response to public concerns regarding low deer numbers. Since that time, conservative deer regulations have been in place in this area on both public and private lands. Anecdotal comments would appear to indicate that deer populations have increased in this unit over the past decade, especially on private lands. Additionally, numerous comments were received during the public comment period for this regulation cycle requesting more either-sex deer hunting days in this area. Additional either-sex deer hunting day will not apply to public lands within this special management area.

C.F. Phelps and Rapidan WMA's. Local Wildlife Division WMA staff have requested a decrease in the number of firearms either-sex deer hunting days on these two areas.

G.R. Thompson WMA. The first CWD deer found in Fauquier County in fall 2019 was killed on the G.R. Thompson WMA. Wildlife Health staff has requested an increase on the number of either-sex deer hunting days on this area.

Hardware River WMA. The number of firearms either-sex deer hunting days are being increased in Fluvanna County from 15 to 31. The proposal will leave the number on the Hardware River WMA at 15 (no change).

Oakley Forest WMA. Oakley Forest WMA currently follows Spotsylvania County's either-sex deer hunting days. However, there is a need to separate the WMA from the county-wide season as Spotsylvania County is proposed for an increase to full season either-sex deer hunting. The deer population on Oakley Forest WMA appears to have reached the desired population level after several years of the current season structure. In order to stabilize the deer population, reducing the antlerless harvest is necessary to maintain the desired population level and retain hunter satisfaction.

White Oak Mountain WMA. Local Wildlife Division WMA staff have requested an increase in the number of firearms either-sex deer hunting days on this area.